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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

STEPHEN C. FOSTER.

Ex-Mayor Stephen C. Foster, whose portrait appears in this issue of the Annual, died in this city, January 28, 1898; and a sketch of his life appears in Volume IV, pp. 179-183, of the Historical Society's publications, from which a brief summary of the primary facts of his life is condensed here.

Mr. Foster was born in Maine, December 17, 1820. He graduated from Yale College in the class of 1840; later attending lectures at the Louisiana Medical College, and afterwards practicing medicine in Jackson county, Missouri. In 1845 he started for California via Santa Fe, Chihuahua and Sonora. At Oposura he learned of the breaking out of the Mexican war; and not being able to find any party going to California, he returned in June, 1846, to Santa Fe; and in October he was employed as interpreter of the "Mormon Battalion," which, under the command of Col. Philip St. George Cooke, set out for California, by way of Tucson, and the Pima Villages, arriving at San Diego January 20, 1847, and at Los Angeles, March 16, 1847,

For more than fifty years, Mr. Foster was a prominent citizen of Los Angeles. His familiarity with the Spanish language, in the early days, enabled him to serve the community in many capacities. Col. Mason, the then military Governor of the Territory, appointed Mr. Foster as Alcalde of this city, January 1, 1848. Mr. Foster was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1849; he served as State Senator during 1851-53, and he was twice elected Mayor of Los Angeles. In 1848 he was married to Dona Maria Merced, daughter of Don Antonio Maria Lugo and widow of Jose Perez. She and their two sons still survive him.

FRANCISCO SABICHI.

Francisco Sabichi, a member of the Society of Los Angeles Pioneers, who died suddenly of heart disease on the 12th of April, 1900, in the 59th year of his age, was a native of this city. He was born October 4, 1842. His father, Matias Sabichi, was a native of Austria, or Austrain Italy, who came to Los Angeles at a very early

day; and his mother was Josefa, daughter of Don Ygnacio Coronel, and sister of Antronio F. Coronel. Matias Sabichi in 1852, after the death of his wife, took his two boys, Francisco and Matias, and set out on his return to his native land, but he died on the way. His two sons were taken in charge on their arrival in England by the American consul, Mr. Joseph Rodney Croskey, who became a true foster-father to them, taking them into his own family and carefully educating them. Frank was in the British navy three years. Matias was a portion of the time at school in France. Both learned to speak French, and of course English and Spanish, the latter being their mother tongue. They returned to Los Angeles in 1860, having been away about eight years. Matias Sabichi was accidentally shot while on a hunting trip, from the effects of which he died not long afterwards. Frank studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was several times elected a member of the City Council in the early 70's and also once in the 80's. In 1865, he was married to Magdalena, daughter of Wm. Wolfskill, the pioneer. She, with their eight children survive him.

Mr. Sabichi was prominently identified with the "Sons of the Golden West," being at the time of his death, a grand trustee of the order for the State of California.

H. D. BARROWS,
LOUIS ROEDER,
K. D. WISE,
Committee.

ROBERT MILLER TOWNE.

Robert Miller Towne, a charter member of this society, who died in this city April 21, 1900, was born in Batavia, Illinois, November 12, 1844. He came to Los Angeles in the fall of 1869. For some years he engaged in sheep-raising. Afterwards he went to New Mexico, where he did a freighting business between Las Vegas and the mines.

In 1881 he married Miss Lillie M. Fisher, daughter of Judge Fisher of this city, whom most of the members of this pioneer Society knew well. Two daughters were born to this union. They with their mother survive Mr. Towne. After his marriage he and his family resided for a time in Kansas. During the latter portion of his life, and while suffering from tuberculosis, he lived on